

Week Ending Friday, June 15, 2007

**Statement on the Nomination of  
Admiral Michael G. Mullen To Be  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
and General James E. Cartwright To  
Be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs  
of Staff**

*June 8, 2007*

General Peter Pace has served our Nation with great distinction for 40 years. He is an outstanding marine, and he made history as the first marine to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Pete's job has been to help ensure that America's military forces are prepared to meet the threats of this new century. This is a difficult task in a time of peace. Pete Pace has done it in a time of war, and he has done it superbly. As part of our senior military leadership, Pete has helped oversee the liberation of more than 50 million people. I have relied on his unvarnished military judgment, and I value his candor, his integrity, and his friendship.

Pete's life is the story of the American Dream. He grew up in an immigrant family, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and went on to hold the highest position in our Armed Forces. He is a man of character who leads by example. I thank his wife, Lynne, who knows from long experience that military service is a family commitment. I also thank his son, Peter, and his daughter, Tiffany. America has been blessed by Pete's lifetime of service. And I wish all the best for the Pace family as this good man begins a new chapter in his life.

I am pleased to accept the recommendation of Secretary Gates that I nominate Admiral Michael Mullen to succeed General Pace. Admiral Mullen has performed ably as Chief of Naval Operations. He holds degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy, the Harvard Business School, and the Naval Postgraduate School. He has served ably in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets—as well as in both Al-

lied and Joint Commands. And when he is confirmed by the United States Senate, he will make a superb Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Admiral Edmund Giambastiani has been a strong and effective Vice Chairman. He is an officer of vision and determination, and he has served at a time of unprecedented danger for America. His time in the Joint Chiefs capped an exemplary military career. As commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, he helped transform our Nation's military so it could better face the new threats of a new century. And he did the same for NATO while serving as its first Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation. The admiral is a highly decorated officer, but he is most proud of his unit awards and commendations because they represent team accomplishments. I thank his wife, Cindy, his daughter, Cathy, and his son, Pete, for the support they have provided. I salute Admiral G for his long career of distinguished service. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation.

I am also pleased to announce that I am accepting Secretary Gates's recommendation to nominate General James E. Cartwright as the new Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Cartwright is a Marine Corps pilot who serves as commander, United States Strategic Command—where he has done an outstanding job managing America's global strategic forces. In that role, he is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. Strategic Forces. He is an exceptional officer, and when he is confirmed by the Senate, he will be an outstanding Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks in a Discussion With  
Members of the Community of  
Sant'Egidio in Rome, Italy**

*June 9, 2007*

**The President.** I want to thank the good folks of Sant'Egidio for joining us. Sant'Egidio is one of the great faith-based organizations in the world. And we're here to talk about our common commitment to help the poor, feed the hungry, and help eradicate disease. United States is firmly committed to helping people on the continent of Africa. We have committed in our—and we'll work with our Congress to spend \$30 billion to deal with HIV/AIDS, over a billion to deal with malaria, billions to deal with hunger, money to deal with education.

But these programs cannot be effective without loving people on the ground helping a neighbor in need. I want to thank you for being a part of the international army of compassion. I thank you for hearing the call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. I'm looking forward to hearing your strategies in dealing with some of the most difficult problems in the world. I'm proud of your organization, and I thank all members of your organization for being such loving souls.

Thank you for having us here.

**Marco Impagliazzo.** Thank you, Mr. President. Before our strategy, some little word about our community, with your permission.

**The President.** Please.

**Mr. Impagliazzo.** The Community of Sant'Egidio was born in Rome, in this city, in 1968. At that time, the West was wondering about its future and the young people were looking for something. Andrea Riccardi, who is the founder of our community, was a student at the time in a high school of Rome. He called some of his fellow students to listen and to live according to the gospel, gospel of Jesus.

In those years, people believed that the revolution would change the world. Andrea understood that there would have been no lasting chance unless the people's hearts were touched by the word of Jesus. This word put into practice, man, first of all, to be friends with the poor.

Today, there are communities of Sant'Egidio in 70 countries, with 60,000 members all over the world. Its spirituality is founded on several pillars—just three pillars, Mr. President. First, prayer, which takes place every day in all our communities—a personal prayer, reading the Scripture every day, but also common prayer. It means that every day, 60,000 people open the Scriptures. They read it and pray to the Lord from the beautiful churches of Rome—like the Basilica of Santa Maria, Trastevere, that you would have visited—to the hearts of Africa, or so many places in the immense lands of Latin America. Mr. President, prayer is our friend.

The second pillar is mission, reaching out to all those who seek and ask for a sense of their rights.

Finally, the third pillar, solidarity with the poor. There's a voluntary service carried out for free because no one is paid for his service to the poor in our community, no one.

Gratuitousness, Mr. President, is what our society is missing today. Everything is there to buy or to sell. But Jesus said, you received without payment, give without payment, Jesus said. This word of Jesus is the serve of our member's work. In our study, one thing has always proved, too, there is no loss for the poor without pay.

Christians must live with the freeness of the heart. One never has the solution to everything, but we must not close our hearts when we do not have a solution. We are all the window of the world. That is why we cannot forget demands of the poor peoples of the world.

So what is striking in our thought is that these signs, signs of resurrection, to praise in those very places where it seems there is no hope left, like Africa. With your permission, Mr. President, I would like to pass now the floor to my friends who work every day in Africa.

Thank you.

**The President.** Thank you very much. Thank you all.

*[At this point, the public portion of the event concluded; however, the discussion continued, and no transcript was provided.]*